CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising the steps of:

      (a)   conducting a sales transaction between a buyer and a seller;

      (b)   generating <u>from the sales transaction</u> an electronic sales receipt including detailed information describing the items purchased, wherein detailed information includes sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction;

      (c)   transmitting the sales receipt via a computer network to a computing device operated by or on behalf of the buyer, the buyer being presented via a user interface of the device with a representation of the detailed information describing the items purchased;

      (d)   performing steps a, b and c, for a plurality of transactions <u>such that at least one buyer conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of sellers and at least one seller conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of buyers,</u> ~~each of the plurality of transactions occurring between a unique buyer and seller combination~~; and

      (e)   storing in a centralized database a record of each sales receipt generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions.

2.   (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

      (a)   generating aggregate information in response to stored receipts; and

      (b)   providing the aggregate information to one of the sellers.

3.   (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

      (a)   one of the buyers remotely searching the centralized database in response to search criteria including limiting found records to those of receipts for transactions in which the one of the buyers participated;

      (b)   retrieving the found records; and

      (c)   transmitting representations of the found records to the one of the buyers.

4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

(a) the one of the buyers adding information to a found record; and

(b) associating the added information with the found record in the database.

5. (Original) The method claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of the one of the buyers downloading information in the found records to financial software as indications of purchases.

Claims 6 – 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product encoded in a computer readable medium, the program product for A method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, the program product encoded to perform comprising the steps of:

(a) conducting a sales transaction between a buyer and a seller;

(b) generating an electronic sales receipt including detailed information describing the items purchased and a link to supplemental information for at least one item purchased, wherein detailed information includes sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction;

(c) performing steps a and b for a plurality of transactions such that at least one buyer conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of sellers and at least one seller conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of buyers, each of the plurality of transactions occurring between a unique buyer and seller combination;

(d) storing in a centralized database a record of each sales receipt generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions, wherein the centralized database belongs to a third party;

(e) selecting a record in the centralized database associated with a selected buyer;

(f) organizing the record based on a buyer preference; and

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(g)   sending the supplemental information to a user interface for displaying ~~on the user interface~~ the supplemental information associated with the at least one item purchased as stored in the selected record.

18.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises warranty information associated with the at least one item purchased.

19.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises a manual associated with the at least one item purchased.

20.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises rebate information associated with the at least one item purchased.

21.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises recall information associated with the at least one item purchased.

22.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises accessory information associated with the at least one item purchased.

23.   (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ program product of claim 17, wherein the supplemental information comprises product return information associated with the at least one item purchased.

Claims 24 - 26 (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) A method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising the steps of:

  (a)   conducting a sales transaction between a buyer and a seller;

  (b)   generating an electronic sales receipt object containing detailed information describing the items purchased and providing one or more functions for the detailed information, ~~wherein detailed information includes sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction~~;

  (c)   transmitting the sales receipt object via a computer network to a computing device operated by or on behalf of the buyer, the buyer being presented via a user interface of the device with a representation of the detailed information describing the items purchased;

  (d)   performing steps a, b and c, for a plurality of transactions <u>such that at least one buyer conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of sellers and at least one seller conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of buyers</u>~~, each of the plurality of transactions occurring between a unique buyer and seller combination~~; and

  (e)   storing in a centralized database the sales receipt object generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions<u>, wherein the centralized database belongs to a third party</u>.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

  (a)   generating aggregate information in response to stored sales receipt objects; and

  (b)   providing the aggregate information to one of the sellers.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

  (a)   one of the buyers remotely searching the centralized database in response to search criteria including limiting found objects to those of sales receipts objects for transactions in which the one of the buyers participated;

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(b)   retrieving the found sales receipt objects; and

(c)   transmitting the found sales receipt objects to the one of the buyers.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 27, wherein the sales receipt object provides a store function for adding information to the sales receipt object, the method further comprising the step of adding information to the found sales receipt object using the store function.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 27, further comprising the step of the one of the buyers downloading information in the found sales receipt objects to financial software as indications of purchases.

32.   (Currently Amended) A method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising the steps of:

(a)   conducting a plurality of sales transactions such that at least one buyer conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of sellers and at least one seller conducts a sales transaction with each of a plurality of buyers between a unique buyer and seller combination;

(b)   capturing detailed information regarding each of the plurality the sales transactions, the detailed information including sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction;

(c)   generating for each of the plurality of sales transactions a sales receipt object containing the detailed information, wherein the sales receipt object provides one or more functions for the detailed information, wherein at least one function is a conversion function capable of converting the detailed information into one or more selected data formats;

(d)   transmitting a the sales receipt object of the plurality of sales receipt objects to a network accessible computing device; and

(e)   executing the conversion function of the sales receipt object to convert the detailed information into a selected data format.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the selected data format is a text file or a binary file.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the selected data format is a markup language.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected data format is HTML or XML.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the selected data format is a MICROSOFT EXCEL file, MICROSOFT WORD file, MICROSOFT MONEY file, or QUICKEN file.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the sales receipt object is a JAVA class, JAVA applet, JAVA application, ActiveX object, or a SOAP object.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the sales receipt object provides an encryption function capable of encrypting selected detailed information stored in the sales receipt object.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the sales receipt object provides a function for retrieving selected detailed information from the object, further comprising the steps of:

      (a)   executing the function to retrieve selected detailed information from the sales receipt object; and

      (b)   rendering the selected retrieved detailed information in a user interface of the computing device.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the user interface is a web browser.

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41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the computing device is a finance management system.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the detailed information is discount information, promotional information, product manual information, rebate information, recall information, accessory information, product return information, or warranty information.

43.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic sales receipt is generated by a third party.

44.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the centralized database belongs to a third party

45.   (New) The program product of claim 17, wherein the electronic sales receipt is generated by a third party.

46.   (New) The method of claim 27, wherein detailed information includes sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction.

47.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein detailed information includes sale price, sale tax, total transaction amount, and information indicating completion of the transaction.

48.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the electronic sales receipt is generated by a third party.

49.   (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of storing the sales receipt object in a database operated by the third party.

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